

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SS-20 NSC-07 INR-11

CIAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W
----- 033452

R 171139Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9486
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO'S HOSPITALIZATION

REF: (A) MADRID 4490; (B) MADRID 4420

1. SUMMARY. FRANCO STILL IN HOSPITAL BUT MAY BE RELEASED TODAY OR DURING NEXT FEW DAYS. HE MAY NOT, IN ANY EVENT, ATTEND JULY 18 NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AND MAY REQUIRE MORE THAN USUAL REST DURING SUMMER MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANCO DID NOT LEAVE HOSPITAL JULY 16, DESPITE WIDESPREAD SPECULATION HE WOULD, AND REMAINS IN HOSPITAL TODAY.

3. IT POSSIBLE FRANCO MIGHT LEAVE HOSPITAL TODAY, AND IN ANY EVENT IT CONSIDERED LIKELY HE WILL LEAVE HOSPITAL DURING NEXT FEW DAYS, AT LATEST BY WEEKEND.

4. FRANCO'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, DR. VICENTE GIL, SAID YES-TERDAY FRANCO WAS WELL ENOUGH TO LEAVE HOSPITAL, BUT THAT HIS DOCTORS PREFERRED FOR FRANCO TO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL
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SOMEWHAT LONGER UNTIL HE WAS FULLY RECOVERED.

5. IN ANY EVENT, FRANCO MAY NOT ATTEND TRADITIONAL NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT LA GRANJA ON JULY 18, IN WHICH CASE PRINCE JUAN CARLOS WOULD ACT IN HIS PLACE AND RECEIVE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND GOVERNMENT AT LA GRANJA ON FRANCO'S BEHALF. SHOULD FRANCO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL BEYOND TODAY, IT MAY PARTIALLY BE TO PROVIDE MORE SOLID EXCUSE FOR HIS NOT ATTENDING JULY 18 RECEPTION, SINCE IT MIGHT MERELY AROUSE FURTHER SPECULATION REGARDING STATE HIS HEALTH IF HE WERE TO RETURN HOME AND NOT ATTEND GOS' MOST IMPORTANT ANNUAL RECEPTION.

6. ACCORDING JOSE MARIA ARMERO, USUALLY WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST AND LAWYER, FRANCO IS INDEED SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED TO STROLL AROUND HOSPITAL AND RESUME MANY ACTIVITIES, AND HIS PHLEBITIS HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY. HOWEVER, ARMERO CLAIMS THAT THE CONDITION HAS NOT ENTIRELY DISAPPEARED AND THAT FRANCO WILL REQUIRE MUCH REST DURING SUMMER AND WILL NOT BE ABLE RESUME NORMAL FULL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES DURING THIS PERIOD.

7. IT ALSO UNCERTAIN WHETHER FRANCO WILL BE ABLE FOLLOW HIS NORMAL SUMMER PATTERN WHEREBY HA SPENDS SEVERAL WEEKS AT HIS GALICIAN RETREAT NEAR LA CORUNA PLUS ONE WEEK AT SUMMER CAPITAL OF SAN SEBASTIAN. HOWEVER, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET MORE REST IN HIS SUMMER PLACE IN GALICIA THAN AT PARDO IN MADRID.

8. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY AND CONTRADICTORY RECENT RUMORS THAT FRANCO WAS PREPARING TO ISSUE DECREES TRANSFERRING CERTAIN POWERS TO JUAN CARLOS, AND PERHAPS EVEN PROVIDING FOR HIS CORONATION AS KING. HOWEVER, THESE HAVE SUBSIDED WITH FRANCO'S IMPROVED HEALTH, WHAT APPEARS LIKELY IS THAT SOME SUCH DECREES MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED, PRESUMABLY WITH APPROVAL AND UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FRANCO, AS PART OF CONTINGENCY PLANS.

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